

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

9
2F

Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOR RELEASE MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 1959

VOLUME 79

CONTENTS

NUMBER 7
PAGE

COTTON

U. S. Imports Less Cotton in 1958-59	5
U. S. Cotton Linters Imports Increase.....	6
Cotton Situation Better in U. K.	6

DAIRY AND POULTRY PRODUCTS

Irish Remove Tax on Butter Production.....	24
--	----

FATS, OILSEEDS, AND OILS

Japan's Soybean Import Needs Set at 37 Million Bushels.....	2
Suez Canal Soybean Shipments High in April.....	10
Japanese Traders Propose Soybean Meal Imports from U.S.S.R.....	26
Canadian Rapeseed Acreage Down Sharply.....	27
France's 1959 Rapeseed Production Drops	27

FOREIGN TRADE DEVELOPMENTS

Mexico Barter Cotton and Sugar	16
Mexico Announces CEIMSA Reorganization.....	25
New French Liberalization List Published	25

FRUITS, VEGETABLES, AND NUTS

France Liberalizes Raisin Imports.....	10
West Germany To Import Canned Fruit	11
Spanish Almond and Filbert Exports To Benefit From Peseta Devaluation.....	24

GRAINS, FEEDS, SEEDS, AND HOPS

Angola To Shift From Imported Flour To Imported Wheat.....	7
Morocco's Wheat Price Support Maintained at Last Year's Level.....	8
Bean Production Declining in El Salvador	12
Portugal's Wheat Crop Reduced.....	16
Turkey Harvesting Smaller Grain Crop	18
Australia's Rice Crop Larger Than Expected	18
Burma's New Rice Crop Well Started; Rice Sales Up.....	20
Thai Rice Exports Decline.....	20
Canada's 1958-59 Wheat and Flour Exports 5 Percent Lower	21
Rice Crop Estimate of Rio Grande Do Sul, Brazil, Further Reduced	23
U. S. Grass and Legume Seed Exports Decreased in June	23

(Continued on following page)

CONTENTS (Continued)

Page

LIVESTOCK AND MEAT PRODUCTS

U. S. Tallow Exports Up.....	12
New Zealand Pushing Meat Trade Promotion.....	14
Mohair Exports Up Sharply in January-June 1959.....	14
Canadian Hog Numbers at Record High.....	15
U. S. Exports of Hides and Skins, January-June 1959.....	16
U. S. Lard Exports Up 40 Percent.....	18

SUGAR AND TROPICAL PRODUCTS

U. S. Coffee Imports Up But Value Down.....	9
British East Africa To Increase Sisal Freight Rate.....	9
Henequen Stocks Reduced in Mexico.....	9
Indian Jute Mills To Step Up Production.....	9

TOBACCO

U. S. Tobacco Exports Down in June.....	3
Mexico's 1958 Tobacco Imports Up.....	4
Brazil's Tobacco Exports Larger Last Year.....	4

ooOoo

JAPAN'S SOYBEAN IMPORT NEEDS
SET AT 37 MILLION BUSHELS

The Japanese Government's estimate of soybean import requirements during the current fiscal year (April 1959-March 1960) is 998,000 metric tons, equivalent to 36.7 million bushels.

Japan expects to buy 18.3 million bushels of foreign beans in the first half of the year. These imports are to be made up of 15.8 million bushels (\$39,899,000 worth) from the United States; 0.7 million bushels to be imported under the automatic approval system; and 1.8 million bushels to be procured for the special purpose of processing into oil to be reexported.

This estimate of import requirements is based on the government's estimate that soybean consumption during the Japanese fiscal year 1959 will reach 41.8 million bushels, compared with consumption of 33.9 million in 1956, 37.5 million in 1957, and 40.1 million in 1958. Steadily rising national consumption of edible oils (currently 9.5 grams or .02 pound per capita per day) accounts for the increased consumption forecast.

Japan's imports of soybeans during 1958 totaled 33.2 million bushels, including 28.6 million from the United States, 1.0 million from Brazil, 3.3 million from Communist China, and 0.3 million from other countries. During January-April 1959, Japan imported 12.7 million bushels of soybeans, 12.4 million from the United States, 0.2 million from Brazil, and 0.1 million from other countries.

U. S. TOBACCO EXPORTS DOWN IN JUNE

U. S. exports of unmanufactured tobacco in June 1959, at 25.8 million pounds, were 20.1 percent below those for June a year ago. The value of June 1959 exports was \$18.6 million, compared with \$23.2 million in June 1958.

Exports of most major kinds of tobacco--including flue-cured, Burley, dark-fired Kentucky-Tennessee, and Virginia fire-cured--were below those for June 1958. Maryland exports, however, were up substantially, as were Green River and cigar binder and filler.

For the first 6 months of 1959, exports of unmanufactured tobacco totaled 152.6 million pounds--down 5.6 percent from January-June 1958. For the fiscal year 1959, exports totaled 473 million pounds--the same as for fiscal 1958. The value of fiscal 1959 exports, however, at \$350 million was 2 percent greater than the value for fiscal 1958.

TOBACCO, UNMANUFACTURED: U. S. exports, by type and export weight, June and January-June 1958 and 1959, with percent change

Type	June		Percent change	January-June		Percent change
	1958	1959		1958	1959	
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Flue-cured.....	25,430	20,257	-20.3	119,775	112,591	-6.0
Burley.....	2,658	1,954	-26.5	14,330	13,669	-4.6
Dark-fired Ky.-Tenn....	1,705	515	-69.8	11,760	8,311	-29.3
Va. fire-cured 1/.....	408	112	-72.5	2,315	2,140	-7.6
Maryland.....	549	979	+78.3	4,833	5,244	+8.5
Green River.....	4	109	---	782	671	-14.2
One Sucker.....	---	12	---	414	1,696	+309.7
Black Fat, etc.....	444	240	-45.9	2,358	2,037	-13.6
Cigar wrapper.....	430	409	-4.9	2,460	2,458	-.1
Cigar binder.....	126	379	+200.8	1,135	1,849	+62.9
Cigar filler.....	91	308	+238.5	118	559	+373.7
Other.....	402	503	+25.1	1,338	1,391	+4.0
Total.....	32,247	25,777	-20.1	161,618	152,616	-5.6
	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Percent	Mil. dol.	Mil. dol.	Percent
Declared value.....	23.2	18.6	-19.8	114.6	110.4	-3.7

1/ Includes sun-cured.

Bureau of the Census

June 1959 exports of tobacco products were valued at \$7.5 million--2.6 percent less than in June a year ago. Exports of cigarettes, at 1,598 million pieces were up 1.3 percent from June 1958. Exports of cigars and smoking tobacco in packages also were larger, but chewing and snuff and smoking tobacco in bulk dropped.

TOBACCO PRODUCTS: U. S. exports, June and January-June
1958 and 1959, with percent change

Products and value	June		Percent change	January-June		Percent change
	1958	1959		1958	1959	
Cigars and cheroots						
(1,000 pieces).....	693	1,069	+54.3	4,727	6,717	+ 42.1
Cigarettes						
(million pieces).....	1,577	1,598	+ 1.3	8,711	9,075	+ 4.2
Chewing and snuff						
(1,000 pounds).....	103	88	- 14.6	610	487	- 20.2
Smoking tobacco in pkgs.						
(1,000 pounds).....	73	78	+ 6.8	347	346	- .3
Smoking tobacco in bulk						
(1,000 pounds).....	870	525	- 39.7	4,513	4,225	- 6.4
Total declared value						
(million dollars).....	7.7	7.5	- 2.6	42.0	43.7	+ 4.0

MEXICO'S 1958 TOBACCO
IMPORTS UP

According to trade sources, Mexico's leaf tobacco imports in 1958 totaled 6.0 million pounds--up 60 percent from 1957. As usual, most of the imports were U. S. leaf, almost all flue-cured and Burley. In 1959, imports of flue-cured are expected to decline, while purchases of Burley are likely to rise above those in 1958. Mexico's cigarette consumption continues to increase. Last year, it was 4 percent above 1957.

BRAZIL'S TOBACCO EXPORTS
LARGER LAST YEAR

Brazil's exports of leaf tobacco rose to 66.2 million pounds in 1958 from 62.3 million in 1957. Increased exports to such important outlets as Spain, West Germany, the Netherlands, and Denmark accounted for the gain.

Spain was the major market in 1958, taking 18 million pounds (27 percent of total exports). The Netherlands took 15.7 million pounds, and West Germany, 11.5 million pounds.

Brazilian leaf exported in 1958 averaged the equivalent of U. S. 23 cents per pound. Shipments to Spain averaged 18 cents and those to the Netherlands 22.7 cents. Exports to West Germany and Denmark averaged 22.4 cents and 32.8 cents, respectively.

TOBACCO LEAF: Brazil, exports by country of destination, 1956-58

Destination	1956	1957	1958 <u>1/</u>
	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>	<u>1,000 lb.</u>
Germany, West.....	13,702	9,959	11,517
Spain.....	8,525	14,811	18,007
France.....	3,036	4,894	3,466
Netherlands.....	13,688	10,082	15,668
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	2,887	2,496	1,572
Denmark.....	5,299	4,135	4,683
Italy.....	3,942	---	1,373
Sweden.....	561	9	---
Switzerland.....	3,299	1,942	1,854
Tunisia.....	1,160	771	968
Algeria.....	3,087	4,434	3,241
Uruguay.....	3,147	2,197	1,541
Other.....	4,668	6,569	2,303
Total.....	67,001	62,299	66,193

1/ Preliminary.

2/ If any, included in other.

U. S. IMPORTS LESS
COTTON IN 1958-59

U. S. imports of cotton (for consumption) were equivalent to 136,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight during the first 11 months (August-June) of the 1958-59 season. This was a decline of 4 percent from 141,000 bales imported in the corresponding 1957-58 period.

Principal sources of the 1958-59 imports, with comparable 1957-58 figures in parentheses, were: Egypt 58,000 bales (30,000); Mexico 33,000 (74,000); Peru 26,000 (14,000); Pakistan 9,000 (13,000); India 6,000 (8,000); Brazil 1,000 (1,000); and Aden 1,000 (0).

Imports in June 1959 were equivalent to 2,169 bales, compared with 3,525 bales in May and 1,974 bales in June 1958. Practically all of the June 1959 imports consisted of short, harsh Asiatic-type cotton from India and Pakistan, not subject to quota restrictions.

U. S. COTTON LINTERS IMPORTS INCREASE IN 1958-59

U. S. imports of cotton linters, mostly felting qualities, totaled 166,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during August-June 1958-59. This was an increase of 23 percent from imports of 135,000 bales in the same months a year earlier.

Principal sources, with comparable 1957-58 figures in parentheses, were: Mexico 128,000 bales (99,000); U.S.S.R. 19,000 (19,000); El Salvador 7,000 (4,000); Nicaragua 4,000 (1,000); and Guatemala 3,000 (1,000).

Linters imports in June 1959 were 12,000 bales, compared with 17,000 bales in May and 10,000 bales in June 1958.

COTTON SITUATION BETTER IN U. K.

Activity in the United Kingdom's cotton industry picked up late in the 1958-59 season (August-July), and is likely to improve even more in the current (1959-60) season.

A number of factors point to further recovery from last season's textile recession, and consequently to larger cotton imports this season. There is stronger demand for cotton goods, some reduction in textile inventories, and returning confidence in the stability of prices at lower levels. This should encourage the rebuilding of raw cotton stocks which had dropped to relatively low levels by the end of 1958-59.

Although the United Kingdom's cotton consumption of 965,000 bales (500 pounds gross) during August-April 1958-59 was 18 percent below a year earlier, consumption has increased in recent months following the strengthening in demand for cotton goods.

Cotton imports into the United Kingdom during August-May 1958-59 were 843,000 bales--down 31 percent from 1,230,000 bales in the corresponding 1957-58 period. The sharpest decline was in imports from the United States, 77 percent below a year earlier. This decline, however, was partly offset by an increase in imports from most other suppliers.

Quantities imported from principal sources during August-May, with comparable 1957-58 figures in parentheses, were: United States 141,000 bales (616,000); Sudan 139,000 (130,000); Mexico 139,000 (163,000); Nigeria 86,000 (57,000); Peru 61,000 (44,000); Iran 40,000 (34,000); Nicaragua 31,000 (11,000); U.S.S.R. 25,000 (18,000); Turkey 21,000 (18,000); Uganda 18,000 (13,000); Pakistan 17,000 (12,000); El Salvador 14,000 (9,000); Aden 13,000 (12,000); and Syria 11,000 (12,000).

U.K. imports from Mexico include Mexican cotton transshipped through U. S. ports--an estimated 80,000 bales in August-April 1958-59 and 101,000 bales a year earlier.

Cotton stocks on April 30, 1959, were reported at 355,000 bales. This was a drop of 33 percent from beginning stocks of 527,000 bales.

Recent prices for most growths of cotton for forward delivery have been steady to slightly higher on the Liverpool market, at competitive levels. C.i.f. Liverpool prices on August 6, 1959, for specified U. S. qualities and comparable foreign upland type growths were:

Country	Quality	Comparable U. S. quality 1/	Price per pound		Shipment period
			Foreign	U. S.	
			Cents	Cents	
Mexico.....	:SM 1-1/16"	:SM 1-1/16"	: 27.82	: 27.23	: Sept-Oct
U.S.S.R.....	:SM 1-1/32"	:SM 1-1/32"	: 28.12	: 27.82	: Nov-Dec
Syria.....	:SM 1-1/32"	:SM 1-1/32"	: 27.53	: 27.82	: Oct-Nov
Iran.....	: M 1-1/16"	: M 1-1/16"	: 26.65	: 27.23	: Oct-Nov

1/ September-December shipment.

ANGOLA TO SHIFT FROM IMPORTED FLOUR TO IMPORTED WHEAT

Flour millers in Angola have been authorized to import directly from overseas sources as much wheat as needed to meet the country's flour requirements. However, imports must be approved by the Junta de Exportacao de Cereais, a government board, and will be regulated in accordance with the capacity of mills, quality, and price. The object is to reduce imports of flour.

If millers cannot import enough wheat, the Junta will import it either by direct purchase or on the basis of tenders and bids. Domestic wheat production ranges between 12,000 and 14,000 tons annually, less than half the needs. Annual imports have totaled only 1,000 to 2,000 tons.

Flour requirements are from 20,000 to 25,000 tons annually. Imports in recent years have ranged from 12,000 to 15,000 tons, mostly U. S. flour. Imports are rigidly controlled. On May 20, 1959, the Junta called for bids covering imports of 7,500 metric tons of flour for delivery in 6 monthly shipments of 1,250 tons, beginning August 1, 1959. There were indications that these might be the last substantial flour imports prior to the scheduled opening of a new flour mill in Luanda in January 1960.

The Junta also controls the wholesale distribution of imported flour. Domestic flour is handled by regular commercial channels, but wholesale and retail flour prices are government-fixed.

MOROCCO'S WHEAT PRICE SUPPORT MAINTAINED AT LAST YEAR'S LEVEL

The Moroccan Government has announced that the fixed price for soft wheat and the guaranteed price for durum wheat of the 1959 crop will be the same as last year--3,300 and 3,900 francs per quintal (\$2.14 and \$2.53 per bushel at 420 francs to the dollar), respectively. These are base prices for wheat of good quality having a weight of 77 kilograms per hectoliter (59.8 pounds per bushel) and 3 percent foreign matter. Premiums and discounts are provided for wheat of better or poorer quality.

At these levels, producer prices for Moroccan wheat continue considerably above world market prices. The government announced a year ago, when it reduced the support price for soft wheat, that production of soft wheat beyond needs of the country would no longer be encouraged. This policy was dictated by the fact that the country's soft wheat could not be sold in world markets without an export subsidy, costly to the national treasury. The policy in regard to durum wheat is to encourage production because of the good demand for that type of wheat in world markets.

The support price for the 1959 soft wheat crop is a fixed price. That for durum is a floor price. Wheat entering commercial channels can be sold only to dealers licensed by OCIC (Office Cherifien Interprofessionnel des Cereales). That agency also fixes the price of wheat to flour mills, regulates the quantity sold to each mill on the basis of the needs of the area served, fixes the price of flour and bread, regulates storage rates, and controls exports by a licensing system.

Buyers are required to deduct a tax from the price paid to growers. This is paid to OCIC and is used in meeting its operating expenses and in making payments to equalize prices to flour millers throughout the country. During 1958-59, the tax was 70 francs per quintal (4.5 cents per bushel). However, both prices to growers and dealers' selling prices to mills were increased monthly to cover storage costs. For soft wheat the increase was 45 francs per quintal (2.9 cents per bushel) per month. For durum, it was 22.50 francs per quintal (1.4 cents per bushel) for each halfmonth. Presumably the tax and storage allowances apply again this year.

As was the case last season, France will very likely again agree to buy the bulk of Morocco's surplus of 1959-crop durum. Under a contract concluded between OCIC and the French Cereals Office on July 11, 1958, the latter agreed to buy up to 180,000 metric tons of durum wheat from the 1958 crop at a price equivalent to 120 percent of the prevailing fixed price for soft wheat, plus handling charges, transportation and exporters' margin.

By mid-May 1959, 140,000 metric tons had been sold to France and 40,000 tons remained to be purchased under the 1958 contract. In addition, Morocco had about 20,000 tons of exportable durum to sell outside of the contract. According to the trade, France could have purchased durum wheat elsewhere at lower prices but preferred to buy within the franc zone at a premium price.

U.S. COFFEE IMPORTS UP BUT VALUE DOWN

Coffee imports into the United States amounted to 11,248,080 bags from January through June of 1959, compared with 10,022,929 bags in the same period of 1958.

The value of imports for the first 6 months of 1959, at \$542.2 million, however, showed a decline from the \$613.5-million value of 1958. Imports of coffee from Brazil and Colombia were larger this year, but imports from North America, Asia, and Africa declined.

BRITISH EAST AFRICA TO INCREASE SISAL FREIGHT RATE

Freight rates on sisal from British East Africa will be increased by 70 cents per 40 cubic feet beginning January 1, 1960. The present rate for sisal per 40 cubic feet is \$16.10 for long fiber from Mombasa. It is \$14.28 for tow and \$12.60 for waste.

HENEQUEN STOCKS REDUCED IN MEXICO

The cumulative henequen fiber stocks that have caused problems for the Mexican industry almost from its beginning were finally reduced during the second quarter of 1959. Stocks in warehouses are about 1 million pounds, the smallest in many years.

Sales to countries not usually taking Mexican henequen fiber contributed principally to the large reduction in stocks. Normally, the United States buys the largest share of fiber, with only occasional sales to other countries.

In the April-June quarter of this year, fiber was exported not only to the United States but also to Japan, West Germany, Cuba, the Netherlands, France, and Chile. These markets accounted for about 6 million pounds out of total exports of 30 million, with Japan taking the largest share.

INDIAN JUTE MILLS TO STEP UP PRODUCTION

A decision of the Indian Jute Mills Association of Calcutta unsealed $1\frac{1}{2}$ percent of the looms of member mills, effective June 22, 1959. This restores the sealed loomage to $12\frac{1}{2}$ percent of total looms, as it was prior to March 2, 1959.

The sealing and unsealing of looms represents a concerted effort by member mills (which account for most of the mills of India) to maintain stability in the gunny market. The extra 3.4 million pounds of jute goods per month that can now be manufactured is expected to be needed to meet the normal increase in demand during the late summer and fall harvest season.

FRANCE LIBERALIZES RAISIN IMPORTS

Liberalization of raisin imports by France during the latter part of July may make it possible for the United States to again become an important supplier to the French market.

Since 1953, France has annually imported between 8,400 and 9,500 short tons of raisins, ranging in value from \$2½ to \$3½ million. The U. S. share of the French raisin market has dropped from nearly two-fifths during prewar years to negligible quantities, because the French Government has not allocated any dollar exchange for raisin purchases.

The French import duty on raisins, other than those from countries in the European Common Market is 5 percent ad valorem. The French trade feels that if U. S. prices this season are more nearly competitive than they were in the 1958-59 season, California raisins can be marketed in France because the U. S. quality and pack are regarded as superior.

RAISINS: France, imports of raisins by country of origin,
1957 and 1958, January-June 1959

Country	1957	1958	Jan.-June 1959
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Greece.....	2,378	4,080	2,044
Turkey.....	1,831	1,269	1,023
Iran.....	2,921	1,844	585
Spain.....	1,120	608	34
Lebanon.....	1/	1,700	3
United States.....	1/	---	---
Other countries.....	320	5	64
Total.....	8,570	9,506	3,753

1/ If any included in "other countries."

SUEZ CANAL SOYBEAN SHIPMENTS HIGH IN APRIL

Oilseed shipments northward through the Suez Canal in April were one-third above shipments in April 1958. Heavy shipments of soybeans and cottonseed accounted for the increase. Copra shipments were down about one-third.

In the first 7 months of the current marketing year shipments of soybeans through the Suez Canal were over 520,000 short tons (17.4 million bushels), compared with 227,000 tons (7.6 million bushels) in October-April of 1957-58. However, a greatly reduced volume of copra practically offsets the larger movements of soybeans, and total oilseed shipments were up only 5 percent.

OILSEEDS: Northbound shipments, Suez Canal, April 1958 and 1959,
October-April 1957-58 and 1958-59

Oilseed	April		October-April	
	1958	1959	1957-58	1958-59
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>short tons</u>	<u>short tons</u>	<u>short tons</u>	<u>short tons</u>
Soybeans <u>1</u> /	36.4	82.7	227.1	521.4
Copra.....	47.4	32.0	548.9	312.0
Peanuts.....	18.7	15.4	109.1	103.6
Cottonseed.....	5.5	17.6	77.2	82.7
Flaxseed <u>2</u> /	1.1	1.1	27.6	16.5
Others.....	15.4	20.9	121.3	136.7
Total.....	124.5	169.7	1,111.2	1,172.9

1/ To convert to bushels use 33.3 bushels per ton. 2/ To convert to bushels use 35.7 bushels per ton.

Suez Canal Authority, Monthly Bulletin (Cairo, Egypt).

WEST GERMANY TO IMPORT CANNED FRUIT

West Germany has announced two global import tenders for canned fruit in containers of less than 11 pounds (5 kilograms). Applications for licenses under both tenders must be submitted August 10 to December 30, 1959, or until the value limit of imports has been reached. The commodities covered by the tenders are canned apricots, peaches, pears, fruit salad, and fruit cocktail.

Importers who have obtained import licenses on canned fruit (except pineapple and citrus) during the period 1956 to 1958 may obtain licenses under the first tender. The amount applied for may not exceed the amount of approved licenses during the 1956-58 period, and 70 percent of the amount must be for import between October 15, 1959, and June 30, 1960. The remaining 30 percent must be imported between January 1 and June 30, 1960.

Under the second tender, importers not qualified to take part in the first tender but who have imported canned pineapple and citrus fruit in 1958 may apply. The total amount applied for cannot exceed the import value of the 1958 canned pineapple and citrus. Customs clearance for imports under this second tender must be between October 15, 1959, and June 30, 1960.

Value limits have not been announced but are expected to be liberal. Any canned fruit purchased in the United States under these tenders must have been produced in the United States.

BEAN PRODUCTION DECLINING IN EL SALVADOR

El Salvador's 1959 bean harvest (October-December) is not yet officially estimated, but it is expected to be considerably below last year's 230,000 bags, which was 22 percent below the 1957 harvest.

For the last 3 years the Salvadoran bean crop has been declining at an average rate of more than 25 percent a year, and the downtrend is expected to continue. This is because beans cannot be interplanted with the slower-growing hybrid corn which is replacing the corn varieties used previously. Bean production and acreage since 1950 has been as follows:

Year	Area	Production
		1,000 bags 1/
1950.....	101,103	878,745
1951.....	87,284	664,517
1952.....	92,317	725,688
1953.....	84,781	633,680
1954.....	86,146	634,714
1955.....	85,208	707,452
1956.....	66,597	411,495
1957.....	61,918	295,966
1958.....	41,686	229,382

1/ 60 pounds each.

El Salvador's population is only about 2.4 million, but is increasing about 65,000 (2.7 percent) a year. At the same time, the population is shifting from rural to urban marketing areas, which depend largely on imports for supplies. These factors, along with the decline in commercial bean production, should tend to increase bean imports.

El Salvador's annual bean imports have ranged from 50,000 to 100,000 bags for several years, principally from Nicaragua and Honduras. Due to smaller bean acreage and general drought in Central America in 1954 and 1955, El Salvador imported 60,000 bags of U.S. old-crop small red beans in midsummer of 1955. This is the only recorded shipment of U. S. beans to El Salvador.

U.S. TALLOW EXPORTS

Shipments of inedible tallow and greases from the United States increased from 557 million pounds in the first half of 1958 to 647 million pounds in January-June 1959. This was a gain of 16 percent. Exports to the major destinations--Italy, Japan, and the Netherlands--increased 20, 18, and 30 percent, respectively. Shipments to Mexico, Egypt, Guatemala, and Poland declined.

The increase in exports was the result of lower U.S. prices and increased foreign demand. Current tallow prices are about 2 cents per pound lower than a year ago.

TALLOW AND GREASES, INEDIBLE 1/: U.S. exports by country of destination,
average 1951-55, annual 1957-58, and January-June 1958-59

Continent and country	Average 1951-55	1957	1958 2/	January-June		Percent change 1959 1958
				1958 2/	1959 2/	
North America:	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Canada.....	pounds 23,782	pounds 20,400	pounds 21,770	pounds 8,164	pounds 7,888	-3
Mexico.....	43,659	40,147	49,771	31,611	2,748	-91
El Salvador.....	3,842	2,103	1,017	331	467	+41
Guatemala.....	3,693	5,856	8,659	5,014	4,409	-12
Cuba.....	30,356	27,624	33,529	16,370	17,626	+8
Dominican Republic...	3,709	3,928	4,176	1,663	2,290	+38
Other countries.....	6,623	7,516	7,919	3,944	4,279	+8
Total.....	115,664	107,574	126,841	67,097	39,707	-41
South America:						
Chile.....	6,097	157	236	10	459	+359
Colombia.....	15,140	18,069	17,928	9,257	10,088	+9
Ecuador.....	6,124	10,332	9,446	3,945	5,224	+32
Peru.....	9,769	8,876	6,879	3,087	4,954	+60
Other countries.....	4,574	7,527	7,234	2,893	5,219	+80
Total.....	41,704	44,961	41,723	19,192	25,944	+35
Europe:						
Austria.....	6,897	4,427	3,246	1,097	1,770	+61
Belgium-Luxembourg...	61,071	31,977	24,281	9,930	12,632	+27
France.....	10,913	9,024	142	142		
Germany, West.....	87,515	71,572	32,988	13,131	28,831	+120
Ireland.....	6,126	865	79	79	1,540	+1,849
Italy.....	137,080	239,916	260,914	109,645	131,289	+20
Netherlands.....	139,534	232,856	139,623	89,690	116,994	+30
Norway.....	3,346	1,176	1,006	764	1,090	+43
Spain.....	3/1,741	35,423	1,392	728	997	+37
Switzerland.....	33,485	15,863	7,586	3,767	4,151	+10
United Kingdom.....	10,973	7,099	5,180	1,995	7,827	+292
Poland.....	4/5,694	68,674	34,597	26,731	25,641	-4
Yugoslavia.....	19,053	26,732	31,828	10,807	12,597	+17
Other countries.....	8,838	5/60,255	7,653	3,658	6,677	+83
Total.....	532,266	805,859	550,515	272,164	352,036	+29
Africa:						
Egypt.....	34,408	66,977	71,010	30,635	20,794	-32
Rhodesia-Nyasaland...	4,740	2,218	52	42	641	+1,426
Union of South Africa	52,211	40,590	28,208	15,334	20,161	+31
Other countries.....	4,593	5,198	13,374	6,132	6,571	+7
Total.....	95,952	114,983	112,644	52,143	48,167	-8
Asia:						
China, Taiwan.....	15,434	22,239	19,408	10,591	13,568	+28
Japan.....	161,025	223,096	216,858	111,263	131,206	+18
Korea.....	9,283	15,046	16,589	4,854	13,664	+181
Philippines.....	11,104	14,127	12,555	5,202	6,838	+31
Other countries.....	12,942	6/43,886	22,311	13,606	15,665	+15
Total.....	209,788	318,394	287,721	145,516	180,941	+24
World total..	1/995,376	1,391,771	1,119,444	8/556,610	9/647,410	+16

1/ Includes: Inedible tallow, animal greases and fats, animal oils, n.e.s., neatsfoot oil and stocks, oleic acid or red oil, and stearic acid. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ 1955 only. 4/ Less than a 5-year average. 5/ Includes 25.1 million pounds to U.S.S.R. 6/ Includes 34.9 million pounds to Turkey. 7/ Includes 2,000 pounds to Australia. 8/ Includes 498,000 pounds, destination unknown. 9/ Includes 615,000 pounds, destination unknown.

NEW ZEALAND PUSHING MEAT TRADE PROMOTION

New Zealand is establishing a Trade Commissioner's office in Hong Kong and plans to open additional offices in Bonn, Rome, and New Orleans soon in order to push export sales of meats and other products. Offices are already active in New York and San Francisco.

New Zealand government officials and trade representatives have also been studying market potentials in Japan, the Philippines, and Peru.

MOHAIR EXPORTS UP SHARPLY IN JANUARY-JUNE 1959

U.S. exports of mohair in January-June 1959 were 82 percent above the same period of 1958. Shipments in the first half of 1958, however, were adversely affected by the European textile recession.

The sharp rise in 1959 reflects particularly strong demand in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. There was also a significant increase in shipments to Japan.

As a result of strong foreign demand, U.S. prices in the first half of 1959 were sharply above a year earlier.

MOHAIR 1/: U.S. exports by country of destination, annual 1956-58, January-June 1958 and 1959

Country of destination	Annual			January-June		
	1956	1957	1958	1958	1959	Increase or decrease (-)
	1956	1957	1958	1958	1959	1959
	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000	:1,000
	:pounds	:pounds	:pounds	:pounds	:pounds	:pounds
United Kingdom.....	7,795	6,017	8,115	2,827	5,667	2,840
Netherlands.....	2,482	1,804	3,046	1,479	2,280	801
Belgium.....	952	1,432	854	366	556	190
Japan.....	217	402	263	167	568	401
Canada.....	107	57	247	142	97	-45
Germany, West.....	107	94	369	178	248	70
Switzerland.....	104	74	190	87	16	-71
Other.....	71	112	126	45	201	156
Total.....	11,835	9,992	13,210	5,291	9,633	4,342

1/ Includes other wool-like specialty hair.

Bureau of the Census.

CANADIAN HOG NUMBERS
AT RECORD HIGH

Hogs on Canadian farms (excluding Newfoundland) on June 1 were estimated at 6,872,000, 11 percent above a year earlier. This number was exceeded only in 1943 and is a peacetime record. However, the rate of increase in the past year was not as great as in the year ending June 1, 1958, when numbers were up 27 percent from June 1957.

The traditional distribution of numbers, which changed during the 1958 buildup, has now been restored. Numbers in Eastern Canada at 3,674,000 (up 20 percent over 1958 and an alltime record) again exceeded those in Western Canada, which were 3,198,000 a 3-percent increase over a year earlier (see Foreign Crops and Markets, April 13, 1959).

The 1959 spring pig crop (December-May) has been reported as 5,318,000 pigs from 704,400 sows farrowed, a rise of 11 percent over 1958. All of the increase was in Eastern Canada, where numbers rose 22 percent--from 2,468,000 to 3,007,000. Numbers in Western Canada, at 2,311,000, changed very little from 2,319,000 in 1958. Most of the slight Western-area decrease was in Saskatchewan.

Hog farrowings during June-November are expected to increase (see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 3, 1959).

HOGS: Canadian 1/ numbers on farms June 1, and December 1, 1951-55 average and 1956-59.

Year	June 1			December 1		
	Under	6 months	Total	Under	6 months	Total
	6 months	and over		6 months	and over	
	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.	Thou.
1951-55.....	3,648	1,062	4,710	3,353	1,424	4,477
1956.....	3,669	1,061	4,730	3,201	1,360	4,561
1957.....	3,768	1,089	4,857	3,553	1,607	5,160
1958.....	4,706	1,458	6,164	4,769	2,111	6,880
1959.....	5,190	1,682	6,872			

1/ Excludes Newfoundland.

MEXICO BARTERS COTTON AND SUGAR

Mexico's quasi-government organization known as PIPSA (Productores y Importadores de Papeles, Sociedad Anonima), which arranges for the importation and distribution of all newsprint, has announced that 5,000 tons of newsprint has been imported from Chile, under a barter arrangement. In exchange, Mexico has sent Chile cotton valued at approximately \$200,000 and sugar valued at \$572,000.

PORTUGAL'S WHEAT
CROP REDUCED

Portugal's 1959 wheat crop, estimated at 19.7 million bushels, was sharply below the good harvests of the past 2 years but was still about equal to average production from 1946 through 1955.

The growing season got off to a bad start when fall seeding was delayed for 3 to 4 weeks first because of abnormally dry ground, then because of too heavy rains. Excessive rains continued through most of the winter and almost up to the beginning of the harvest season. As a result, harvested acreage was less than the large 1958 acreage. The harvest was later than usual because of the adverse growing conditions. Quality of the grain however, is reported good.

Despite the reduced crop, the supply position for 1959-60 is relatively favorable, since substantial carryover stocks offset the small production. Present prospects are for even smaller imports than the 893,000 bushels imported in 1958-59. The bulk of the imports were from France. During the past 3 months, shipments of about 145,000 bushels per month have been made by non-Portuguese sources to Madeira and the Azores. About half the total has been U. S. hard red winter wheat.

U. S. EXPORTS OF HIDES AND
SKINS JANUARY-JUNE 1959

U. S. exports of cattle hides, calfskins, and kipskins declined sharply in the first half of 1959, but shipments of sheep and lamb skins increased.

Exports of cattle hides in the first half of 1959 were 26 percent lower than in the same period a year earlier. Exports of calf and kipskins declined 48 and 34 percent, respectively. Fewer cattle hides were shipped to all major destinations except Canada, Mexico, and Yugoslavia. The United Kingdom took more calfskins, and the Netherlands took more kipskins, but exports of these skins to all other major destinations declined.

Increased domestic demand, reduced supplies, and sharply higher prices have all contributed to the decline in exports of bovine hides and skins in 1959.

HIDES AND SKINS: U.S. exports, annual 1956-58,
January-June 1958 and 1959.

Country of destination	Annual			January-June		
	1956	1957	1958	1958	1959	Increase or decrease (-)
	1956	1957	1958	1958	1959	1959
	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces	pieces
Cattle hides:						
Canada.....	774	818	578	340	370	30
Mexico.....	702	425	330	134	208	74
Germany, West....	436	813	614	345	343	- 2
Netherlands.....	285	1,369	869	522	260	-262
Poland.....	0	5	295	285	35	-250
United Kingdom...	243	390	167	140	25	-115
Yugoslavia.....	246	203	195	21	78	57
Japan.....	1,329	1,398	1,436	697	624	- 73
Other.....	925	1,096	914	452	235	-217
Total.....	4,940	6,517	5,398	2,936	2,178	-758
Calf skins:						
Canada.....	563	704	671	333	330	- 3
France.....	49	36	143	125	6	-119
Germany, West....	431	300	361	210	80	-130
Italy.....	104	194	249	182	119	- 63
Netherlands.....	105	196	250	178	40	-138
Switzerland.....	1	50	126	93	10	- 83
United Kingdom...	66	110	45	28	40	12
Japan.....	455	412	404	240	114	-126
Other.....	74	68	104	57	12	- 45
Total.....	1,848	2,070	2,353	1,446	751	-695
Kip skins:						
Canada.....	7	8	10	6	1	- 5
Belgium.....	20	22	22	21	8	- 13
Germany, West....	351	417	251	119	57	- 62
Netherlands.....	104	181	108	49	58	9
United Kingdom...	32	98	10	7	0	- 7
Japan.....	578	405	186	127	68	- 59
Other.....	167	95	128	61	67	6
Total.....	1,259	1,226	715	390	259	-131
Sheep and lamb 1/:						
Canada.....	337	609	502	368	374	6
Mexico.....	84	62	108	13	43	30
France.....	88	107	10	3	7	4
Poland.....	0	0	135	33	0	- 33
United Kingdom...	258	382	412	202	401	199
Other.....	64	194	198	65	148	83
Total.....	831	1,354	1,365	684	973	289

1/ Includes goat and kid skins.

TURKEY HARVESTING SMALLER GRAIN CROP

Turkey's grain crops will be smaller this year because of inadequate rainfall. No official estimates are available to date, but U. S. observers estimate the 1959 wheat crop at about 190 million bushels, compared with some 240 million last year. Not only was total precipitation below average but uneven and untimely distribution also handicapped crop development.

With a crop as small as indicated, Turkey will not be in a position to export wheat and may even need to import some during 1959-60. Turkish officials feel, however, that they can export some barley.

AUSTRALIA'S RICE CROP LARGER THAN EXPECTED

The 1958-59 rice crop of New South Wales, main rice-growing area of southeast Australia, is now estimated at 278 million pounds (124,000 long tons) of rough rice. The new crop estimate means that Australia's export surplus of milled rice from the 1959 harvest (March-May) will approximate 190 million pounds (85,000 long tons).

Until recently the crop was expected to be about the same as the 1958 harvest of 238 million pounds (106,000 tons). However, by mid-July producers had delivered 276 million pounds (123,000 tons) to the New South Wales Marketing Board, and there were a few tons yet to be delivered.

U. S. LARD EXPORTS UP 40 PERCENT

U. S. exports of lard during the first 6 months of 1959 were up 40 percent from a year earlier. Shipments totaled 274 million pounds during January-June 1959. During the corresponding periods of 1958 and 1957 exports were 195 and 248 million pounds, respectively.

The main reason for the sharp increase in lard shipments was lower lard prices, resulting from increased hog slaughter. The price of loose lard in Chicago at the end of July was 7.25 cents per pound, compared with 13 cents a year earlier.

Shipments to the 3 major markets--Cuba, the United Kingdom, and West Germany--increased sharply in the first half of 1959 and accounted for over 90 percent of total lard exports. Shipments to Cuba and the United Kingdom increased 35 and 42 percent, respectively. Exports to West Germany in the 6-month period rose from 1.4 million pounds to 18.6 million pounds and were higher than exports in either of the entire past 2 calendar years.

LARD (INCLUDING RENDERED PORK FAT): U.S. exports by country of destination,
average 1951-55, annual 1957-58, and January-June 1958-59

Continent and country	Average 1951-55	1957	1958 ^{1/}	January-June		Percent change <u>1959</u> 1958
				1958	1959	
North America:	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent
Canada.....	6,497	26,611	5,108	3,116	1,436	-54
Mexico.....	31,823	11,782	14,565	6,122	6,361	+4
Panama Canal Zone...	967	373	152	106	66	-38
Costa Rica.....	7,363	2,022	1,751	1,173	2,238	+91
El Salvador.....	4,299	3,082	3,190	1,464	1,380	-6
Guatemala.....	8,668	4,853	3,476	1,998	3,161	+58
Panama.....	6,560	4,893	7,177	3,431	1,853	-46
Cuba.....	157,427	178,791	162,994	89,189	120,057	+35
Dominican Republic...	2/352	22	47	10	16	+60
Haiti.....	6,725	6,982	7,246	3,901	3,778	-3
Netherlands Antilles.	1,066	220	295	115	281	+144
Other countries.....	1,518	2,360	1,375	613	935	+53
Total.....	233,265	241,991	207,376	111,238	141,562	+27
South America:						
Bolivia.....	3,755	4,681	696	475	763	+61
Brazil.....	2,088	6,000	—	—	—	—
Colombia.....	3,359	936	—	—	—	—
Ecuador.....	5,494	4	—	—	1,773	—
Peru.....	12,521	2,770	585	321	—	—
Venezuela.....	3,640	991	402	210	434	+107
Other countries.....	134	38	268	4	659	—
Total.....	30,991	15,420	1,951	1,010	3,629	+259
Europe:						
Austria.....	23,579	7,514	1,100	1,100	22	-98
Belgium-Luxembourg...	1,005	348	42	22	15	-32
France.....	1,104	—	140	—	—	—
Germany, West.....	55,978	17,779	10,928	1,396	18,634	+1,235
Greece.....	2/14	10	2	2	—	—
Italy.....	593	2	3	3	—	—
Netherlands.....	33,114	9	—	—	742	—
Switzerland.....	1,725	73	—	—	—	—
United Kingdom.....	124,685	149,529	146,451	70,077	99,717	+42
Yugoslavia.....	38,431	62,392	15,479	8,863	7,833	-12
Other countries.....	4,825	318	825	12	11	-8
Total.....	285,053	237,974	174,970	81,475	126,974	+56
Africa.....	100	110	—	—	—	—
Asia.....	5,197	5,767	2,245	943	1,150	+22
Oceania.....	30	—	—	—	—	—
World total.....	554,636	501,262	386,542	3/194,937	4/273,832	+40

^{1/} Preliminary. ^{2/} Less than a 5-year average. ^{3/} Includes 271,000 pounds, destination unknown. ^{4/} Includes 517,000 pounds, destination unknown.

BURMA'S NEW RICE CROP WELL STARTED; RICE SALES UP

Rains in Burma have been very favorable for rice production so far in 1959-60. The monsoon arrived in May, giving farmers ample time to prepare the soil and plant their crops.

Rice acreage probably increased again this year. In addition to rains being plentiful, farmers planted in new areas where internal security was greatly improved. The government has aided farmers in reclaiming rice acreage, and more of them have resettled on the land. Another incentive, although slight, is the increase in the procurement price of paddy.

Sales of rice and rice products in the first 6 months of 1959 were around 1.7 million long tons, of which 1.2 million were from the 1958-59 crop. Stocks of the 1958-59 crop available for export and uncommitted on July 1 were estimated at 900,000 tons, milled rice equivalent. Sales prospects for around 500,000 tons of this in the last 6 months of 1959 are as follows: Indonesia, 80,000 tons; Ceylon, 100,000 tons; Malaya, 20,000 tons; India, 200,000 tons; and 70,000 tons in a 3-way deal between Burma, France, and Indonesia.

THAI RICE EXPORTS DECLINE

Exports of rice from Thailand for the first 6 months of 1959 amounted to 551,575 metric tons. This was well below exports of 704,273 tons during the same period of 1958 and the 1954-58 average of 680,000 tons.

Considering that the total export availability for 1959 is estimated at not more than 1,200,000-metric tons and that almost half that amount was shipped during January-June, prospects are good for disposal of the surplus. However, little low-grade rice has been moving, and this is a source of concern to the Thai authorities.

Indonesia, which usually takes low-grade rice, bought no rice from Thailand in the first half of 1959, after taking 114,000 tons in January-June 1958. In an effort to dispose of low-grade rice, Thailand reduced rice export premiums on that type on June 17 (see Foreign Crops and Markets, July 27, 1959).

Singapore was again the largest buyer of Thai rice in the first half of 1959, although purchases were down about 20,000 tons from the same period of 1958. Malaya was next with 85,000 tons, up 11,000 tons from 1958, and Hong Kong was third with 72,000, a decline of 21,000 tons.

Exports to Japan in January-June were 67,000 tons, compared with 34,000 in the first half of 1958. Japan has contracted to buy 80,000 tons of Thai rice this year. Shipments to Western Europe have been down appreciably so far in 1959, but exports to the Near East and Africa area show a substantial increase.

RICE (MILLED): Thai exports, January-June, 1958 and 1959

Country of destination	January-June		Country of destination	January-June	
	1958	1959		1958	1959
	Metric tons	Metric tons		Metric tons	Metric tons
Asia:			Europe:		
Arabian States.....	24,544	48,070	Belgium.....	3,900	1,045
Red Sea Area.....	0	40,473	Germany.....	13,635	2,316
British Borneo.....	25,602	23,108	Netherlands.....	31,653	17,705
Hong Kong.....	93,441	72,271	United Kingdom..	14,565	10,842
Indonesia.....	114,200	200	Africa:		
Japan.....	34,292	67,113	East Africa.....	10,300	14,690
Malaya.....	74,156	84,628	South Africa....	1,541	8,205
Singapore.....	137,249	117,242	West Africa.....	8,101	7,944
Pakistan.....	8,700	0	Mauritius.....	10,475	5,365
Philippines.....	36,009	0	West Indies.....	34,440	0
Ryukyu Islands....	15,700	11,500	Other countries...	5,118	10,742
Oceania.....	6,652	8,116	Total.....	704,273	551,575

East Asiatic Company

CANADA'S 1958-59 WHEAT AND FLOUR
EXPORTS 5 PERCENT LOWER

Canada's wheat and flour exports in 1958-59 (July-June) amounted to 300 million bushels, about 5 percent less than in the previous year. Most of the decrease was in wheat (see table, page 22).

Wheat exports to India, the Netherlands, and the U.S.S.R. dropped sharply, and those to many other countries were down slightly. In contrast, total exports to Japan, West Germany, Poland, and Ireland increased 13 million bushels, while the Union of South Africa took 6.9 million bushels, compared with none the year before.

The United Kingdom continued to be the major market for Canadian flour. Exports to the United Kingdom were up slightly, but those to Venezuela and the Philippines were down.

Wheat and flour exports during August-July 1958-59 (the Canadian marketing year) may be 7 to 8 percent lower than the 320 million bushels exported during 1957-58.

WHEAT AND FLOUR: Canadian exports by country of destination,
July-June 1957-58 and July June 1958-59

Destination	July-June 1957-58			July-June 1958-59		
	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total	Wheat	Flour 1/	Total
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels:	bushels
Western Hemisphere:						
United States	7,410:	1,738:	9,148:	3,534:	1,665:	5,199
British West Indies ..	2:	4,878:	4,880:	2:	5,099:	5,101
Central America	251:	1,588:	1,839:	168:	1,365:	1,533
Cuba	1:	529:	530:	2:	356:	358
Ecuador	369:	2:	371:	1,156:	—	1,156
Peru	2,320:	33:	2,353:	1,865:	29:	1,894
Venezuela	628:	3,444:	4,072:	2,819:	972:	3,791
Others	184:	1,733:	1,917:	3:	2,081:	2,084
Total	11,165:	13,945:	25,110:	9,549:	11,567:	21,116
Europe:						
Austria	2,419:	—	2,419:	3,058:	85:	3,143
Belgium-Luxembourg ...	13,173:	302:	13,475:	11,307:	330:	11,637
France	754:	—	754:	1,334:	—	1,334
Germany, West	30,220:	—	30,220:	33,756:	—	33,756
Ireland	1,851:	1:	1,852:	4,233:	—	4,233
Italy	810:	1:	811:	1,300:	3:	1,303
Netherlands	20,868:	2:	20,870:	10,054:	6:	10,060
Norway	3,446:	—	3,446:	3,670:	—	3,670
Poland	2,497:	—	2,497:	5,408:	—	5,408
Switzerland	9,189:	2/	9,189:	6,931:	—	6,931
United Kingdom	91,782:	13,565:	105,347:	89,610:	13,863:	103,473
U.S.S.R.	14,833:	—	14,833:	7,308:	—	7,308
Others	1,433:	164:	1,597:	1,935:	57:	1,992
Total	193,275:	14,035:	207,310:	179,904:	14,344:	194,248
Asia:						
Ceylon	—	2,145:	2,145:	—	1,843:	1,843
China	2,595:	13:	2,608:	1,643:	—	1,643
India	22,670:	20:	22,690:	10,663:	2:	10,665
Israel	614:	—	614:	1,894:	—	1,894
Japan	37,012:	790:	37,802:	42,493:	1,026:	43,519
Pakistan	3,526:	1:	3,527:	2,843:	2/	2,843
Philippine Republic ..	—	5,223:	5,223:	1,092:	3,145:	4,237
Others	328:	2,087:	2,415:	691:	2,386:	3,077
Total	66,745:	10,279:	77,024:	61,319:	8,402:	69,721
Africa:						
Union of South Africa :	—	—	—	6,899:	—	6,899
Others	706:	1,358:	2,064:	300:	2,695:	2,995
Total	706:	1,358:	2,064:	7,199:	2,695:	9,894
Oceania	1,490:	44:	1,534:	—	19:	19
Unspecified 3/.....	4,172:	—	4,172:	5,411:	—	5,411
World total	277,553:	39,661:	317,214:	263,382:	37,027:	300,409

1/ Grain equivalent. 2/ Less than 500 bushels. 3/ Includes seed wheat —
(August 1957-May 1959). Seed wheat not available for July 1957 and June 1959.

Source: Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada.

RICE CROP ESTIMATE OF RIO GRANDE DO SUL, BRAZIL, FURTHER REDUCED

The 1958-59 rice crop estimate for Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, has again been revised downward. The crop is now estimated at around 1.4 billion pounds (650,000 metric tons) of rough rice, the smallest crop since 1951-52. Last year, a record 2 billion pounds (907,000 tons) were harvested in that State. Average production from 1952-53 through 1957-58 was 1.7 billion pounds (771,000 tons) annually.

Prior to the heavy flood losses in mid-April, producers were expecting to harvest a record crop.

U.S. GRASS AND LEGUME SEED EXPORTS DECREASED IN JUNE

U.S. exports of grass and legume seeds in June amounted to 1,229,000 pounds, compared with 1,270,000 pounds in the previous month and 1,960,000 pounds in June 1958. Most of the June exports this year went to Japan, Canada, and the Netherlands.

The crop-year total (July-June) of 39,417,000 pounds is 6,510,000 pounds below the 45,927,000 pounds exported in 1957-58, due mainly to the sharp decrease in shipments of alfalfa seed.

Kind of seed	June		July 1-June 30	
	1958	1959	1957-58	1958-59
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Alfalfa, certified.....	355	91	1/	1/
Alfalfa, uncertified.....	36	48	1/	1/
Alfalfa, total.....	391	139	18,577	11,383
Alsike.....	21	21	863	412
Ladino.....	48	120	1/	1/
Clovers, other.....	97	92	3,665	5,399
Bentgrass.....	45	264	1/	1/
Fescue.....	71	139	3,555	4,031
Kentucky bluegrass.....	84	107	1,126	2,203
Orchard.....	36	5	254	383
Redtop.....	25	11	711	425
Timothy.....	401	0	3,142	3,047
Grasses, other.....	741	331	14,034	12,134
Total.....	1,960	1,229	45,927	39,417

1/ Prior to January 1, 1958, certified and uncertified alfalfa combined; Ladino included in "other clovers"; and bentgrass in "other grasses".

IRISH REMOVE TAX ON BUTTER PRODUCTION

The 2-cent-per-pound government tax on Irish creamery butter production was removed July 1, 1959. This levy, imposed April 1, 1958, was to provide funds to cover approximately one-third of the losses on butter exports, the balance of such losses being borne by the government.

From April through June of 1959, milk supplied to creameries averaged about 12 percent below the same period of last year. However, butter production dropped about 20 percent, as more milk went into other dairy products. Domestic consumption of butter in the first half of 1959, is reported to have increased 7 percent from the same period of 1958.

SPANISH ALMOND AND FILBERT EXPORTS TO BENEFIT FROM PESETA DEVALUATION

The Spanish devaluation of the peseta on July 21, 1959--from 42 to 60 pesetas per dollar--is expected to encourage Spain's lagging exports of tree nuts. Export taxes were recently changed to 7.40 pesetas per kilo (2.95 cents per pound) for unshelled almonds and filberts. All export premiums have been abolished.

Minimum export prices for almonds and filberts (the former last revised on May 19, 1959) continue in effect. These prices, f.o.b. Spanish port, are:

n	Item	Price
		<u>Cents per pound</u>
	Almonds, shelled:	
	Mallorca Proprietaria with broken grains.....	34.0
	Mallorca Proprietaria without br. grains.....	34.9
	Valencias, unselected.....	36.3
	Mallorcas, selected.....	37.6
	Valencias, selected.....	38.1
	Almonds, unshelled:	
	Mollar de Tarragona.....	11.8
	Mollar de Cartagena.....	11.3
	Filberts, shelled:	
	Regular.....	35.4
	Small.....	33.1
	Asturias.....	34.0
	Filberts, unshelled:	
	Regular.....	13.2

MEXICO ANNOUNCES CEIMSA REORGANIZATION

The Mexican Government has announced a program for the reorganization of CEIMSA, the governmental agency in charge of regulating food supplies.

Under the new program, CEIMSA is to devote itself exclusively to the planning and control, at a higher level, of programs regulating farm prices for certain basic commodities--especially corn, wheat, and beans--and retail prices for commodities considered primary necessities for low-income families. The actual carrying out of these programs will be delegated to other existing agencies.

No change has been announced in the foreign trade activities of CEIMSA. The agency will be relieved of many administrative functions which it has had, such as purchase and storage of farm products, direct operation of retail outlets, distribution of subsidized corn to mills, and operation of food processing plants.

Two national agricultural banks, the National Bank of Ejido Credit and the National Bank of Agricultural Credit will purchase directly from domestic producers, while storage responsibilities will be assumed by Alacenes Nacionales de Deposito, S.A., a governmental storage agency.

NEW FRENCH LIBERALIZATION
LIST PUBLISHED

The French Government on July 23 published a consolidated liberalization list including both items newly liberalized and those which had appeared in earlier lists. The list indicates by different symbols whether liberalization applies only to imports from countries belonging to the Organization for European Economic Cooperation (OEEC), or extends also to the United States and Canada.

Among the items newly liberalized to the dollar area are: citrus fruit, except oranges (see below); raisins; dried figs; nuts (except walnuts); live poultry, other than day-old chicks; game and goat meat; meat and meat offals (except poultry livers and pork), salted or in brine, dried or smoked; certain types of raw and smoked hams; palm oil and certain other vegetable oils (not important in U. S. exports); wool grease and certain other animal oils and fats (not including lard or tallow); certain plants and cuttings; and tea. Liberalization of summer oranges from June 15 to September 30 was announced in May; other oranges are still not liberalized, either from the dollar area or from OEEC countries.

Items in the consolidated list which are liberalized to OEEC countries but not the dollar area include: beef; pork; poultry meat; tallow; canned asparagus; canned peas, green beans, carrots and mixed vegetables; and lemon juice. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, January 19 and February 16 for previous dollar liberalization lists.)

JAPANESE TRADERS PROPOSE SOYBEAN MEAL IMPORTS FROM THE U.S.S.R.

On July 8, 1959, a trading company of Tokyo, Japan, announced it had come to provisional terms with the Soviet Grain Export Corporation for purchasing about 30,000 metric tons (33,000 short tons) of Soviet soybean meal.

The price reportedly has been fixed at \$69 per ton c.i.f. Japan, and the shipment is expected to be made sometime between October 1959 and February 1960, provided the letter of credit is opened by the end of September. The price is \$6 per ton cheaper than Japan paid for the last shipment and is considered the lowest bid quoted in recent years. However, the contract is provisional and subject to approval by the Food Agency of The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

In October 1958, the Japanese Government approved importation of 25,000 tons of soybean meal from the Soviet Union in spite of strong objections by the local oil-processing industry. The government then appeased the opposition with a verbal pledge that it would not permit further similar imports from the U.S.S.R. When a new bilateral trade plan agreed upon between Japan and the Soviet Union was made public last December, soybean meal was not included in the list of items exportable from the latter country.

The contemplated importation is expected to encounter opposition by the local oil industry because the domestic soybean meal market has been suffering since the beginning of the year from an unusually bearish trend, even without competition from cheaper foreign meal. The current price for domestic meal is approximately \$96 per ton, compared with \$107 last year.

Nevertheless, there is increasing belief that the proposed import plans will be carried out. Circumstances prevailing now are somewhat different from last October. Leaders of many farm organizations are inclined to welcome cheap soybean meal for feed use. Moreover, the newly appointed economic Cabinet Ministers are expected to encourage reciprocal trade with the U.S.S.R. and other countries. And, in addition to the Tokyo trading firm which has negotiated for the imports, several other traders have been enthusiastic about importing Soviet soybean meal.

Some observers believe that not only will the government eventually approve the present plan to import Soviet meal, but that 30,000 to 40,000 tons may be imported annually under Japan-Soviet bilateral trade structure.

Japanese soybean crushers are discussing the advisability of reducing the price of domestic meal. Should they lower their price to a competitive level, the case of the group desiring to import U.S.S.R. meal would be weakened, if not nullified. One observer thinks such action might be taken in time to scuttle the current negotiations for U.S.S.R. soybean meal.

CANADIAN RAPESEED DOWN SHARPLY

Canadian farmers planted 217,800 acres of rapeseed this year, according to the preliminary estimate of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This was two-thirds less than in 1958 and the smallest acreage since 1955.

The reduction in rapeseed acreage, along with the 10-percent decline in flaxseed acreage (see Foreign Crops and Markets, August 3), indicates that farmers evidently have shifted back principally to wheat this year, with the belief that wheat stocks have declined to the point that they will be able to market their 1959 grain. Furthermore, rapeseed prices last year were the lowest in years and per-acre yields the last 2 seasons were discouraging. Many Prairie farmers last fall received 2.5 cents or less per pound for their seed.

If favorable weather continues the next few weeks, the yield per acre this year should be 800 pounds or more. This would result in an outturn of around 175 million pounds, less than one-half last year's crop.

Domestic demand for rapeseed oil has been gradually increasing as it has been the cheapest vegetable oil available. With the smaller crop this fall, however, export demand for seed may raise the price. Should this develop, uptrend in domestic demand for oil may be halted.

RAPESEED: Canada, acreage, yield per acre, and production,
average 1950-54, annual 1957-58 and forecast 1959

Year	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production
	1,000 acres	Pounds	Million pounds
1950-54 average.....	19	805	16
1957.....	618	701	433
1958.....	626	623	390
1959 forecast.....	218	803	175

Dominion Bureau of Statistics.

FRANCE'S 1959 RAPESEED PRODUCTION DROPS

France's fall-planted rapeseed crop, now ripe and reportedly in good condition, is officially forecast at about 144,000 short tons from 198,000 acres, compared with 200,000 tons from 329,000 acres in 1958.

Plantings declined because of disappointingly low yields in 1958, the result of unfavorable weather.

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
--

(PMGC)

Official Business

RAPESEED: France, acreage, yield per acre, and production
average 1950-54, annual 1957-58 and forecast 1959

Year	Acreage	Yield per acre	Production
	1,000 acres	Pounds	1,000 short tons
1950-54 average.....	264	1,166	154
1957.....	266	1,331	177
1958.....	329	1,216	200
1959 forecast.....	198	1,461	144

Compiled from official and other sources.

Spring-planted oilseeds are in good condition, due in part to the fact that they were seeded early. About 37,930 acres--somewhat more than half of the spring planted oilseeds--are in flaxseed this year, compared with about 48,800 in 1958.